

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A rail for use in forming at least part of a barrier system, said rail comprising:

5 a first side wall forming a first side of said rail;

a second side wall forming a second side of said rail;

a top side;

a bottom side;

10 a cross wall formed at one of said top side and said bottom side; and

means for engaging with a cover to attach said rail to said cover in a first orientation in which said cover is disposed on said top side, and a second orientation in which said cover is disposed on said bottom side.

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2. The rail of claim 1, wherein said means for engaging are located toward both said top side and said bottom side.

3. The rail of claim 1, wherein said means for engaging
20 are located on both said first side and said second side.

4. The rail of claim 1, wherein said first side wall and said second side wall each define a planar portion.

5. The rail of claim 4, wherein said means for engaging are configured as protrusions extending away from said rail beyond said planar portions to attach said cover with an interference fit.

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6. The rail of claim 1, wherein said means for engaging form a curved surface.

7. The rail of claim 6, wherein said means for engaging
10 form a radiused surface defining a rounded configuration.

8. The rail of claim 1, wherein said rail further comprises a brace member extending between said first side wall and said second side wall.

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9. The rail of claim 8, wherein said rail defines a chamber between said first side wall, said second side wall, said brace member and said cross wall.

10. The rail of claim 8, wherein said brace member
20 comprises at least one ridge.

11. The rail of claim 1, wherein said rail defines a channel between said first side wall and said second side wall.

5 12. The rail of claim 11, wherein said channel is disposed on said rail on another of said top side and said bottom side opposite said cross wall.

10 13. The rail of claim 1, wherein said first side wall and said second side wall are symmetrical.

14. The rail of claim 1, further comprising a slot for receiving a portion of a rail cap.

15 15. A barrier system comprising:

a rail cover;

20 a rail having a longitudinal axis, said rail being attachable to said rail cover in a first orientation and a second orientation with respect to said rail cover, said rail being configured to be supported in a laterally extending orientation, said rail including supporting means for (i) supporting a first boundary-defining barrier means in position with respect to said rail when said rail is disposed in said first orientation, and (ii) supporting a second boundary-

defining barrier means in position with respect to said rail when said rail is disposed in said second orientation, wherein said second orientation is rotated about said longitudinal axis by 180 degrees from said first orientation; and

5 a boundary-defining barrier means configured and arranged to be supported by said rail.

16. The barrier system of claim 15, wherein said rail further comprises means for engaging the rail cover.

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17. The barrier system of claim 16, wherein said means for engaging comprises protrusions disposed toward a top side and a bottom side of said rail.

15 18. The barrier system of claim 16, wherein said rail cover comprises receiving means for receiving said engaging means.

19. The barrier system of claim 15, wherein said
20 supporting means comprises a cap.

20. The barrier system of claim 19, wherein said cap comprises at least one opening for receiving said boundary-defining barrier means.

21. The barrier system of claim 19, wherein said cap comprises attaching means for attaching said cap to said rail.

22. The barrier system of claim 21, wherein said
5 attaching means comprises a shaped portion of the cap configured for receiving engaging means disposed on the rail in an interference fit.

23. The barrier system of claim 19, wherein said cap
10 comprises at least one ledge for holding said cap into position with respect to said rail.

24. The barrier system of claim 15, wherein said
15 supporting means comprises a cross wall formed on said rail.

25. The barrier system of claim 15, wherein said rail comprises a channel defined by a first side wall, a second side wall and a brace member.

20 26. A method of forming barriers, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a plurality of rails each having a longitudinal axis, a channel on one side and a cross wall on an opposing side;

(b) orienting one of said rails in a first orientation and placing a first boundary-defining barrier means in said channel;

(c) orienting another of said rails in a second
5 orientation rotated 180 degrees from said first orientation about said longitudinal axis;

(d) forming at least one hole in said cross wall; and

(e) placing a second boundary-defining barrier means in
said at least one hole.

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27. The method of claim 26, further comprising placing a cap over said channel when said rail is in said first orientation.

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28. The method of claim 27, further comprising forming openings in said cap for receiving said first boundary-defining barrier means.

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29. The method of claim 26, further comprising attaching a cover to said rail when said rail is in said first orientation.

30. The method of claim 26, further comprising attaching a cover to said rail when said rail is in said second orientation.

5 31. A rail for use in forming at least part of a barrier system, said rail comprising:

 a first side wall forming a first side of said rail;

 a second side wall forming a second side of said rail;

 a top side;

10 a bottom side;

 a cross wall integrally formed on said rail at one of said top side and said bottom side;

 a brace member extending between said first side wall and said second side wall; and

15 a protrusion on at least one of said first side wall and said second side wall, said protrusion extending away from said at least one of said first side wall and said second side wall and configured for forming an interference fit with a cover and a cap.

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32. The rail of claim 31, wherein said protrusion forms a curved surface.

33. The rail of claim 31, wherein said rail defines a chamber between said first side wall, said second side wall, said brace member and said cross wall.

5 34. The rail of claim 31, wherein said rail defines a channel between said first side wall and said second side wall.

35. The rail of claim 31, wherein said first side wall
10 and said second side wall are symmetrical.

36. A rail for use in forming at least part of a barrier system, said rail comprising:

15 a first side wall forming a first side of said rail;
 a second side wall forming a second side of said rail;
 a top side;
 a bottom side;

20 a cross wall integrally formed on said rail at one of said top side and said bottom side, said cross wall having at least one hole for receiving a boundary-defining barrier means therethrough; and

 a brace member extending between said first side wall and said second side wall.

37. The rail of claim 36, further comprising means for engaging with a cover to attach said rail to said cover in a first orientation in which said cover is disposed on said top side, and a second orientation in which said cover is disposed
5 on said bottom side.

38. The rail of claim 37, wherein said means for engaging are located on both said first side of said rail and said second side of said rail.

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39. The rail of claim 37, wherein said means for engaging are located on both said top side of said rail and said bottom side of said rail.

15 40. The rail of claim 37, wherein said means for engaging are configured as protrusions extending away from said rail to attach said cover with an interference fit.

20 41. The rail of claim 36, wherein said rail defines a chamber between said first side wall, said second side wall, said brace member and said cross wall.

42. The rail of claim 36, wherein said rail defines a channel between said first side wall and said second side wall.

5 43. The rail of claim 36, wherein said brace member comprises at least one ridge.

44. The rail of claim 36, wherein said brace member comprises a groove for receiving a fastener or drill bit.

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45. A barrier system comprising:

a rail configured for being supported in a laterally extending orientation, said rail having a top side, a bottom side, and at least one protrusion;

15 a rail cover configured for attaching to said rail at one of said top side and said bottom side; and

20 a cap configured for attaching to said rail at the other of said top side and said bottom side, said cap having at least one opening for receiving a boundary-defining barrier means;

wherein said rail cover comprises receiving means for receiving said at least one protrusion on said rail to form an interference fit between said rail and said rail cover.

46. The barrier system of claim 45, wherein said cap comprises attaching means for attaching said cap to said rail.

47. The barrier system of claim 46, wherein said
5 attaching means comprise a shaped portion of the cap configured for receiving said protrusion in an interference fit.

48. The barrier system of claim 45, wherein said cap
10 comprises at least one ledge for holding said cap into position with respect to said rail.

49. The barrier system of claim 45, wherein said rail
comprises a first side wall and a second side wall.
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50. The barrier system of claim 49, wherein said rail further comprises a cross wall between said first side wall and said second side wall.

51. The barrier system of claim 49, wherein said rail
20 comprises a channel defined by said first side wall and said second side wall.

52. The barrier system of claim 51, wherein said rail further comprises a brace member between said first side wall and said second side wall.

5 53. The barrier system of claim 52, wherein said rail defines a chamber between said first side wall, said second side wall, said brace member and said cross wall.

54. The barrier system of claim 45, wherein said at
10 least one protrusion comprises two protrusions.

55. The barrier system of claim 45, wherein said at least one protrusion comprises four protrusions.

15 56. The barrier system of claim 45, wherein said at least one protrusion comprises two protrusions disposed toward said top side and two protrusions disposed toward said bottom side.

20 57. The barrier system of claim 45, wherein said rail comprises a slot for receiving an edge portion of the cap.

58. A barrier system comprising:

a rail configured for being supported in a laterally extending orientation, said rail having a top side and a bottom side, said rail defining a channel on one of said top side and said bottom side and a chamber opposite said channel;

5 a rail cover configured for attaching to said rail at one of said top side and said bottom side; and

a cap configured for attaching to said rail to cover said channel.

10 59. The barrier system of claim 58, wherein said rail comprises means for engaging with said rail cover to attach said rail to said rail cover in a first orientation in which said rail cover is on said top side of said rail, and a second orientation in which said rail cover is on said bottom side of
15 said rail.

60. The barrier system of claim 59, wherein said means for engaging are located toward both said top side of said rail and said bottom side of said rail.

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61. The barrier system of claim 58, wherein said means for engaging are configured as protrusions extending away from said rail to attach said cover with an interference fit.

62. The barrier system of claim 58, wherein said cap comprises attaching means for attaching said cap to said rail.

63. The barrier system of claim 58, wherein said cap
5 comprises at least one ledge for holding said cap into position with respect to said rail.

64. The barrier system of claim 58, wherein said rail comprises a first side wall and as second side wall.

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65. The barrier system of claim 64, wherein said rail further comprises a cross wall between said first side wall and said second side wall.

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66. The barrier system of claim 64, wherein said channel is defined by said first side wall and said second side wall.

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67. The barrier system of claim 66, wherein said rail further comprises a brace member between said first side wall and said second side wall.

68. The barrier system of claim 67, wherein said chamber is defined by said first side wall, said second side wall, said brace member and said cross wall.

69. A method of forming a barrier, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a rail having a channel on one side and a chamber on an opposing side, said chamber being defined in part by a cross wall;

(b) forming at least one hole in said cross wall;

(c) placing said channel in a rail cover; and

(d) placing a boundary-defining barrier means in said chamber through said at least one hole.

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70. The method of claim 69, wherein step (b) comprises forming a plurality of holes in said cross wall.

71. The method of claim 70, further comprising shaping and spacing said plurality of holes to correspond with said boundary-defining barrier means.

72. The method of claim 69, wherein step (c) comprises sliding said rail cover over an end of said rail along a longitudinal axis of said rail.

73. The method of claim 69, wherein step (c) comprises attaching said cover to said rail with an interference fit.

74. A method of forming a barrier, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a rail having a channel on one side and a cross wall on an opposing side;

5 (b) forming at least one opening in a cap;

(c) placing said cross wall in a rail cover;

(d) placing said cap over said channel; and

(e) placing a boundary-defining barrier means in said channel through said at least one opening.

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75. The method of claim 74, wherein step (b) comprises forming a plurality of openings in said cap.

76. The method of claim 75, further comprising shaping
15 and spacing said plurality of openings to correspond with said boundary-defining barrier means.

77. The method of claim 74, wherein step (c) comprises
sliding said rail cover over an end of said rail along a
20 longitudinal axis of said rail.

78. The method of claim 74, wherein step (c) comprises attaching said cover to said rail with an interference fit.

79. The method of claim 74, wherein step (d) comprises sliding said cap over an end of said rail along a longitudinal axis of said rail.

5 80. The method of claim 74, wherein step (d) comprises attaching said cap to said rail with an interference fit.

81. The method of claim 74, wherein step (d) comprises deflecting said cap to attach said cap to said rail with a
10 snap fit.

82. The method of claim 74, wherein step (d) further comprises inserting an edge of said cap in a slot in said rail.

15 83. The method of claim 74, wherein step (d) further comprises moving said cap with respect to said rail to adjust a position of said at least one opening.

20 84. A rail for use in forming at least part of a barrier system, said rail comprising:

 a first side wall forming a first side of said rail;
 a second side wall forming a second side of said rail;
 a top side;

a bottom side;

a cross wall formed at one of said top side and said bottom side; and

means for engaging with a cover to attach said rail to
5 said cover;

wherein said engaging means are located at both said top side and said bottom side such that said rail is configured to be attached to said cover in a first orientation in which said cover is disposed on said top side, and a second orientation
10 in which said cover is disposed on said bottom side;

wherein said means for engaging are located on both said first side and said second side;

wherein said first side wall and said second side wall each define a planar portion;

15 wherein said means for engaging are configured as protrusions extending away from said rail beyond said planar portions to attach said cover with an interference fit;

wherein said means for engaging form a curved surface;

wherein said means for engaging form a radiused surface
20 defining a rounded configuration;

wherein said rail further comprises a brace member extending between said first side wall and said second side wall;

wherein said brace member is a continuous wall centrally located between the top side of the rail and the bottom side of the rail;

wherein the brace member comprises a groove for
5 positioning a fastener;

wherein said brace member comprises at least one ridge for locating and supporting a bracket;

wherein said rail defines a chamber between said first side wall, said second side wall, said brace member and said
10 cross wall;

wherein said rail defines a channel between said first side wall and said second side wall;

wherein said channel is disposed on said rail on another of said top side and said bottom side opposite said cross
15 wall;

wherein said first side wall and said second side wall are symmetrical;

wherein said first side wall and said second side wall comprise a slot for receiving a portion of a rail cap.

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